

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 651

By Davis (Cocke)

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Orville V. Calfee for his outstanding bravery, remarkable courage, and unswerving commitment to the service of the United States and the American people upon the 60th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

WHEREAS, it is an honor for this General Assembly to pause in deliberations and pay tribute to those individuals who were willing to sacrifice their lives and concerns in order to maintain and preserve the freedom that we, as Americans, hold dear; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee is especially proud of its sons and daughters that served this nation with honor, bravery, and an incomparable love for their fellow Americans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Orville V. Calfee, of Cocke County, is one such valiant and remarkable individual; and

WHEREAS, Orville V. Calfee joined the United States Army on August 10, 1940, at Fort McPherson, Georgia and was later stationed at Scofield Barracks in Oahu, Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Calfee excelled in combat training, developing a specialty with the gun crew and light artillery and qualifying on the ex carbine; and

WHEREAS, on Sunday, December 7, 1941, the Empire of Japan surprisingly and viciously attacked United States forces and military installations at Pearl Harbor on the island of Oahu; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Calfee was eating breakfast at Scoffield Barracks when the attack on Pearl Harbor began; and

WHEREAS, due to the strafe of the low flying Japanese aircraft, Orville V. Calfee, along with many of his comrades, were forced to leave the barracks and seek cover in nearby coconut trees; and

WHEREAS, after the initial shock of the attack, Mr. Calfee and his fellow soldiers loaded their 105 Howitzers and bravely went into Pearl Harbor; and

WHEREAS, in Pearl Harbor, Orville V. Calfee and others dug gun pits in the coral rock of the harbor to counter the Japanese attacks; and

WHEREAS, it was from this gun pit that Mr. Calfee witnessed the destruction of much of the United States Fleet, including the tragic sinking of the *USS Arizona*, which killed 1,177 United States sailors; and

WHEREAS, Orville V. Calfee survived the two-hour Japanese attack which left 21 United States ships severely damaged, 323 aircraft damaged or destroyed, 2,390 people dead and 1,178 wounded; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Calfee served with great honor and courage at Pearl Harbor and throughout the duration of the Second World War, including the Battle of Guadalcanal; and

WHEREAS, he attained the rank of Master Sergeant, and was awarded numerous medals for his meritorious service, including the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with two Bronze Stars, American Defense Service Medal with one Bronze Star, and the Good Conduct Medal; and

WHEREAS, Orville V. Calfee received an honorable discharge from the United States Army on June 10, 1945; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Calfee served with courage and gallantry and deserves proper recognition for heroism both in the United States Army and in society today; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee takes enormous pride in honoring great men, like Orville V. Calfee, who in the face of imminent danger courageously risk their lives to defend the

noble precepts of freedom and democracy and protect the lives of the American people; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Mr. Orville V. Calfee from Cocke County for his outstanding bravery, remarkable courage, and unswerving commitment to the service of the United States and the American people upon the 60th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.